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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 19 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the latest series of terrorist attacks perpetrated against Israel.

Since yesterday, 18 May 2005, Palestinian terrorists have fired over 40 mortar shells at Israeli communities in the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian Authority was notified of these attacks, but did not successfully prevent them or arrest the terrorists involved.

Terrorist elements also launched Qassam rockets against an Israeli community in the western Negev, and Hamas terrorists opened fire at an Israeli Defense Force (IDF) post on the Philadelphi route. Meanwhile, Israeli Security Forces uncovered a 40-kilogram explosive planted by terrorists in the same area.

In addition to this, during the night, a Hamas terrorist approached the Israeli-Egyptian border with the intention of laying and detonating an explosive device in order to target IDF forces. According to information from Palestinian officials given to IDF, the terrorist was apparently killed by a malfunction in the explosive device he was carrying.

As you are well aware, there have been a number of positive developments in the region of late, and Israel is doing its utmost to help create an atmosphere conducive to advancing the peace process. Attacks like these, however, jeopardize the future prospects for peace.

Despite this ongoing terrorist activity, Israel continues to exercise restraint and hopes that the new Palestinian leadership, as well as all States in the region, will finally meet their obligations and adopt a policy of zero tolerance for terrorism. Israel is engaging in a serious effort to renew the peace process, and has proved

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ready to live up to its own obligations, but it expects the Palestinian leadership to be more active in fully eradicating terrorist activity.

Israel calls upon the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorist tactics, and to accept nothing less than the complete dismantling of terrorist organizations, as well as unyielding efforts to prevent terrorism and bring its perpetrators and supporters to justice, in accordance with international law and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1373 (2001), as well as the road map. To delay such actions represents a direct and immediate threat to the fragile hopes of peace that have been rekindled in the region.

I submit the present letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism launched in September 2000, which document the crimes for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative